IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. to 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

~~(a)~~ reading multiple data files belonging to an indicated directory, each of the multiple data files having both data and meta-data;

~~(b)~~ searching the meta-data of the data files read in said reading step for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files read in said reading step, and extracting the common meta-data item from the data files ~~read in said step (a)~~;

~~(c)~~ generating meta-data for the directory by using ~~a~~ the common meta-data item ~~having content which is common to all of the meta-data~~ extracted in said extracting step ~~(b)~~; and

~~(d)~~ attaching the meta-data generated in said generating step ~~(c)~~ to directory data as meta-data corresponding to ~~a file~~ the data files belonging to the directory.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

when in said searching step ~~(c), when~~ there is no common meta-data item, ~~having content which is common to all of the meta-data extracted in said step (b),~~ the meta-data for the directory is generated based on a meta-data item ~~having content which is shared by the most meta-data extracted in said step (b)~~ whose content is included in most of the multiple data files read in said reading step.

24. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

~~(c)~~ generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated in said first generating step ~~(c)~~;

wherein, in said attaching step ~~(d)~~, the meta-data generated in said first generating step ~~(c)~~ is attached to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

25. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

~~(c)~~ generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated in said first generating step ~~(c)~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

each ~~the~~ data file includes ~~is an~~ image data ~~file~~, ~~an~~ audio data ~~file~~, or ~~a~~ dynamic image data ~~file~~.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim ~~26~~ 21, wherein:

in said attaching step ~~(d)~~, the meta-data generated in said generating step ~~(c)~~ is appended to the end of the directory data.

28. to 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A data processing device comprising:

reading ~~means;~~ means for reading multiple data files belonging to an indicated directory, each of the multiple data files having both data and meta-data;

searching means for searching the meta-data of the data files read by said reading means for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files read by said reading means;

extracting ~~means;~~ means for extracting the common meta-data item from the data files read by said reading means;

generating ~~means;~~ means for generating meta-data for the directory by using ~~a~~ the common meta-data item ~~having content which is common to all of the meta-data~~ extracted by said extracting means; and

attaching ~~means,~~ means for attaching the meta-data generated by said generating means to directory data as meta-data corresponding to ~~a file~~ the data files belonging to the directory.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, ~~wherein, when there is~~ wherein when said searching means finds no common meta-data item, ~~having content which is common to all of the meta-data extracted by the extracting means,~~ said generating means ~~generate~~ generates the meta-data for the directory based on a meta-data item ~~having content which is shared by the most meta-data extracted by said extracting means~~ whose content is included in most of the multiple data files read by said reading means.

54. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

first recording ~~means,~~ means for generating a new ~~directory,~~ directory and for recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated by said generating means;

wherein said attaching means ~~attach~~ attaches the meta-data generated by said generating means to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

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55. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

second recording ~~means,~~ means for generating a new ~~directory,~~ directory and for recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated by said generating means.

56. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

each ~~the~~ data file ~~is an~~ includes image data ~~file~~, ~~an~~ audio data ~~file~~, or ~~a~~ dynamic image data ~~file~~.

57. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

said attaching means ~~append~~ appends the meta-data generated by said generating means to the end of the directory data.

58. to 63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising code for performing the steps of:

~~(a)~~ reading multiple data files belonging to an indicated directory, each of the multiple data files having both data and meta-data;

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searching the meta-data of the data files read for a common meta-data item whose content is included in all of the data files;

~~(b)~~ extracting the common meta-data item from the data files ~~read in said step (a)~~;

~~(c)~~ generating meta-data for the directory by using ~~a~~ the common meta-data item ~~having content which is common to all of the meta-data~~ extracted in said extracting step ~~(b)~~; and

~~(d)~~ attaching the meta-data generated in said generating step ~~(c)~~ to directory data as meta-data corresponding to ~~a file~~ the data files belonging to the directory.